



THE BANDWAGON

The Official Publication
of the
CIRCUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Vol. 3. - No. 4

August 15, 1944

CIRCUS EUROPEAN
By: John Van Matre, C.H.S.

This is a story of the famous Circus Orlando in the year 1910, and if not the largest foreign circus, it was by far the most lavish and elaborate. Had only one ring but this ring was extra large and the show travelled by train.

Its seasons travels took it through Sweden, Norway, Denmark and some parts of Germany. Played indoors at such places as the Hippodrome in Malmo, Sweden and the Tivoli in Copenhagen, Denmark.

While playing in Stockholm, Sweden in 1910 the show was attended by Count Sparre, a Lieutenant in the Swedish Army and at the time a married man and quite a dashing fellow. He saw the show and instantly fell in love with Rivira Madigan, the tight rope walker, and one of the features of the show. It seemed she also fell in love with him, or his flashy uniform and dashing manner and to cut the story short they eloped to Copenhagen.

In Copenhagen they lived happily for quite awhile and in one room, until the Swedish Army got to looking for him for desertion, and finally located him.

Somehow or other he found out an hour before they were supposed to seize him and he shot his wife and then himself. Exit the lovers. Sometime later a song was written and published about this famous love story and in some parts of the country is sung today.

Back to the circus - which for a grand finale converted the ring into a large tank and displayed their "Spec" called Water Pantomime. This all took place in and on the water in the tank, with characters representing Neptune, Mermaids, Fish, etc. Finally a bridge was placed over the tank and the personell and animals paraded over it. This was all concluded when riders dressed as Knights of the Round Table and King Arthur's Court, rode on the bridge and fought with the rival group of riders. Many of the men were unhorsed and sent into the socalled briny deep of the tank.

ANDREW DOWNIE

Notes sent to us by John Van Matre, C.H.S.

This well known circus owner was Born, Andrew Downie McPhee, August 13th, 1863, at Stephens Township, Ontario, Canada. Died December 17th, 1930, at Medina, N.Y.

At an early age he moved with his family to nearby Stratford, Ont., Canada, and at the age of 21 went into partnership with Clarence Austin and they put out a one-ring circus entitled "Downie & Austin Parlor Circus."

Two years later he went with the Ryan & Robinson Show as a performer. Some of the many things he could do were tumbling, spade dancing, break-away ladder, acrobat, wire walker, juggler and also work some animals.

In 1889 he and a man named Rich organized the Rich & Downie Circus which they took out the following Spring. In 1890 at Guelph, Ont., Canada, he met and married Christena Hewer. She was better known as Millie La Tena. Many years later he put out a wild animal circus and named it

Andrew Downie (continued)

after his wife. In fact it was in 1914 that he put out the LaTena Wild Animal Circus and it was a ten car railroad show.

At one time he owned the famous Diamond Minstrel Show. After this he bought out Rich and took the show out under the title Andrew Downie Dog & Pony Circus.

His next venture was as a partner in the Downie & Gallagher Wagon Show. Following this he went with the Great Wallace Show. In 1911 he and Al. F. Wheeler took out the Downie & Wheeler Show. The show started out from Oxford, Penna., and they remained partners till the end of the season of 1913.

It was in 1914, as stated above, that he took out his own show (LaTena) and in two years enlarged it from a 10 car show to a 15 car show and made a tour of Canada. The show folded in 1917 at Havre de Grace, Md.

He next leased the title of the Main Circus from Walter L. Main and rolled up a fortune. Then in 1924 he sold out to Miller Bros., famous for their 101 Ranch Wild West Show.

In 1926 he was back and out with Downie Bros. Circus, and it was motorized. This show stayed on the road till 1930 when Downie retired and Charles Sparks took over the title.

Downie was a very lovable person, and certainly made a name for himself in the show business, and remained very active, even up to the time of his death, at the age of 67 years.

The editors of the Bandwagon wish to thank Member John Van Matre for the above two short, though interesting, articles. We shall always be pleased to receive such material from members for publication. Give us the notes, and we will form an article from same.

Since our last regular issue of the Bandwagon - the terrible disaster of the Ringling-Barnum Circus Fire in Hartford occurred, and while mention was made of this in our News Sheet for July, still we seemed too stunned to make further remarks at that time. Members will receive a most interesting article written by F. Beverly Kelley of the Big Show Press Department, which will explain this terrible catastrophe better than we could ever hope to do.

We are, however, pleased to enclose with this issue a very fine photo of the ruins caused by the fire, and to say, "thank you" to Robert D. Good, CHS., through whose kindness these photos are sent to all members. Bob is always ready and willing to help out with his fine photos, and we wish to call your special attention to Bob's one-page ad, in which he lists further photos of the Fire, and others of interest.

Following historical item is sent in by Bob Taber, CHS. Just one of the many similar items that Bob is tabulating for his collection:--

"Some real opposition tactics were resorted to at Green Bay, Wisc., in July, 1900, between the Buffalo Bill and Ringling Bros., outfits. The Gazette of July 11 carried an article about a special billboard. It told of how a mammoth billboard was built by the Ringling Bros. crew so as to completely hide the advertising of the Buffalo Bill Show. It said "The people along Pine St. today have witnessed with much amusement the efforts of one circus advertising crew to get ahead of another. A few days ago the advertising men of Buffalo Bill's Wild West put up a large number of lithographs on the side of a building occupied by Wm. Sequim. In fact, they had literally covered the walls of the Building well up to the roof. Today men working for the Ringling Bros. Circus began the erection of a billboard across the front of the vacant lot west of the building and hiding all posters."

An example of opposition fights in the Golden Circus Age!

COLE BROS. CIRCUS at Grand Island, Nebraska,
July 27th, 1944

Sent in by Arthur Stensvad CHS

Circus day came to Grand Island Nebraska, on July 27th, 1944, when Cole Bros. played there, and it was a big day for Arthur Stensvad, CHS, and his wife, and also Tedd Meyer, CHS - Editor of Sawdust & Spangles - of Iola, Kansas. This was Art's wife's first trip to the circus, and it is sincerely believed that it will not be her last.

Early in the morning, Tedd and Art watched the circus train pull in, and as soon as the elephant car was spotted, met Bill Woodcock, CHS, who recently joined the show. Bill gave the boys the latest information he has gathered and invited them to visit with him later in the day. After watching the wagons being unloaded the boys went to the lot, where they took various pictures of the equipment and raising of the tents.

Later in the morning, the boys met Col. Harry Thomas, who invited them back for the big show. Mrs. Stensvad joined the boys after dinner, and in the side show, met Frank Lee, Press and Radio Representative, and had a very interesting talk with him. With Mr. Lee, they joined Col. Thomas, and all went backyard where pictures were taken. Visits were had with many show folks including Zack Terrell, owner of the Cole Show; Mr. & Mrs. Paul Nelson, The Hodgini Troupe, Jean Allen, and many others. All were very friendly and made Mr. Stensvad's visit very enjoyable. Harry Thomas insisted that we sit at the Bandstand and in between pictures, we viewed the program from that location.

Harry Thomas was very friendly, and no doubt is one of those friends, who circus fans are always happy to meet. Harry is doing his part to keep the show going, and due to the fact that they had lost their drummer, he is acting in that capacity with the show. He does good both as announcer and as drummer and really seems to enjoy himself. The program was very speedy and entertaining. Con Colleano did a wonderful act as well as many others too numerous to mention. All did their best to show the audience that Cole Bros. had the best program since they started.

In between shows, visits were had with Bill Woodcock again and we viewed his collection, assembled since he left Hot Springs. Bill has some wonderful items in his trunk and we enjoyed them immensely. Due to the late hour we had to break away, and get ready for the evening show. During the evening show we again sat at the band stand and had pleasant chats with many of the performers.

The show pulled about a three-quarter house at matinee and a near-capacity house during the evening. The weather was threatening rain in the afternoon, but the evening was good circus weather.

Coming home on Friday, to North Platte, Nebr., we found that Al.G.Kelly & Miller Bros. Circus advance agents have already started the billing of the city for two days stand - August 7th and 8th. Show is to open August 6th (Sunday) for public inspection and should draw considerable interest.

From a letter from Bob Green, CHS, of Pontiac, Mich., we quote as follows regarding the Cole Bros. Circus - which played that city June 17th, 1944.: "This show really has an unloading system using three teams and four Mack trucks. Trucks will pull four wagons off at a time. Train was all unloaded in less than an hour...They had every kid working they could find, carrying canvas and seats; gave the kids all passes to side show and Big Show, then fed them, and gave them pay for helping at night."

When answering advertisements in this issue

BE SURE AND MENTION "THE BANDWAGON"

THE AUCTION BLOCK

Send in your bids on the following lots to the Secretary, John B. Lyon, 22A Charles St., Guelph, Ont., Canada. Make as many bids as you desire - there are some very fine photos in these lots. All bids must be in Secretary's hands by August 31st.

- Lot 1: Three glossy photos size 7 x 9". Two showing newly painted cages at Winter Quarters of Cole Bros. Circus - April, 1943. Other shows loaded flats of Ringling-Barnum Show train pulling into Manchester, N.H., season 1941. Donated by John J. Crowley, CHS.
- Lot 2: Miscellaneous lot of snapshots Size 116 - 20 photos including one or more of the following shows, John Robinson, 1921, and 1929; Hagenbeck-Wallace 1933-34; 101 Ranch 1931; Billroy Comedians, 1937; Barnett '35; Sam B. Dill '32; Tom Mix, '37; Russell, '34; Cole, '36 and '42; Strates '42 and photo of Leo Carrel Gorilla Cage. A very nice selection. Donated William Koford, CHS.
- Lot 3: One - 8 x 10" photo. Ringling Bros. "head of parade" season 1911. Riders and No. 1 Band following. Very good.
- Lot 4: One - 8 x 10" phot. Ringling Bros., Season 1913. Heavy baggage wagon with 5-teams; erection of tent in background.
- Lot 5: One - 8 x 10" photo. Ringling Bros., Season 1913. View of Midway showing Big Show entrance, side show banners and crowds.
- Lot 6: One - 8 x 10" photo. Buffalo Bill - Pawnee Wild West Season 1911. Cook house in background, and in foreground is cook house steam wagon and cook house boiler wagon. A very rare photo.
- Lot 7: One - 8 x 10" photo. Forepaugh-Sells Bros., Season 1910. Parade view showing elephant line-up, with Tab wagon following.
- Lots No. 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 donated by John M. Brown, CHS.
- Lot 8: Window card 8 x 10" - Ringling-Barnum; Lawson Wood's "Monkey Family" on the way to the Big Show. Very humorous. Donated by W. W. Tyson, CHS.

Do not overlook the exceptionally fine photos listed in the above Auction.

Please make the following changes and additions to your permanent Membership List:-

- 96....Mr. Sam. Mitchell, Melbourne Hotel, Simcoe, Ont., Canada.
Removed - left no change of address.
- 93....Mr. Billy S. Isbell, 3125 Ridgeway Ave., Birmingham 8, Ala.
New Address; P.O. Box 2986, University, Ala.
- 113....Mr. James W. Kelley, 593 Third Ave., West Haven, 16, Conn.
New address; Clintonville Road, Clintonville, Conn.

NEW MEMBERS

- 144....Mr. Thomas L. Sangston, Main St., McClellandtown, Pa.,
Ph; Bks; M
- 145....Mr. John Heidl, 1017 - 5 th St., Oshkosh, Wisc.
GC; Ph; Pr; Bks; Ma.
- 146....Mr. Milo Smith, R.F.D. #1, Herkimer, N.Y.
Models; Ph.
- 147....Mr. James MacInnes, Church & Franklin, Alburtis, Pa.
GC.
- 148....Mr. John C. Wyatt, 1912 Belmont St., Bellaire, Ohio.
GC; Ph; Pr; Am.
- 149....Dr. D. E. Reid, Box 441, Lebanon, Oregon.
GC; Ph; R; Pr; Movies.
- 150....Mr. Wallace G. Winter, 2316 B. Street, Bellingham, Wash.
Autographed photographs of performers and circus owners.
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EARLY CIRCUS MEMOIRS
from C.H.White-CHS
who was with Barnum Show from 1872 to 1878

In August 1874 when the P.T.Barnum Hippodrome was showing in Baltimore, on a Sunday morning - there came up a gale which took the big top and dressing top up in the air, doing great damage to both tops, breaking over a dozen of the long quarter poles, and smashing a great number of folding chairs. A call was sent to New York for 15 or 20 sailmakers and only one day was lost - e.g. the following Monday.

While showing in Alton, Ill., in August 1877, the menagerie tent was close beside a long high straw stack back of a large glass works. As the evening performance was about to start someone set fire to one end of the straw stack. There was some quick work done -- the canvas men cut the guy works on that side of the tent, which let the tent fall away from the fire and we got our cages out of danger, and the City fire Department got the fire out promptly and the show went on with but little delay and with only a few quarter-poles and one centre pole broken. Also one or two cage doors broken - but there was great excitement for a little while.

In 1883, my Dad - A.C.White - went with the Barnum agent to Burma, India, to get a White Elephant. They had quite a time in getting one but finally got one and brought two natives with him. They stopped in England for awhile and landed in New York in 1884. They had him on the road only one or two seasons as he got mean and they had to leave him in Winter Quarters in Bridgeport, Conn., and on November 20th, 1887, the animal building caught fire and burnt most all the animals, including the White Elephant. They claimed the loss was Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars - with insurance of Thirty-one Thousand. The elephant was not exactly white, but a sort of flesh color. At the same time that Barnum was showing the real white elephant, Adam Forepaugh had a small elephant "painted" or "Whitewashed" and claimed it the only white elephant on exhibition.

C.H.White has a diamond setting that belonged to P.T.Barnum. Barnum presented this to Mr. White's father when he brought the White Elephant over, and on his father's death C.H.White came into possession of this diamond stick pin.

Rays from the Sun Brothers World Progressive Shows
Twelfth year ----- Season 1903
Notes sent in by Harry P. Bowman, C.H.S.

Executive Staff, Sun Brothers (George and Pete) prop's; No. 1 Show, Geo. Sun, Manager, Pete Sun, Advance representative, S. E. Corbett, Treas. No. 2 Show; Thos. D. Vanosten, Manager; Jack Bledsoe, Advance representative; J.D.Lambert, Treas., the following people have signed -- Rosilin Stickney; The Stewarts, (Clarence and Bert); Ajax, Josie Brown, D.D. Strait, Chas. LaNorts, Chas. Gardner, Jenkins and Jewell, Willie Smith, John W. Dillian, Lambert Bros., Chas. Williamson, Geo. Sun, Jr., Musicians - John Shelly, Director. Prof. C.F.Brown, Director, P.E.Keeler, E.E.Fiddler, F.C.Ferguson, Al.H.Williams, Ike Sherman, Fred Tryon, R.S. Randall, John Walters, Kennard Walters, John Kays, Frank Lytton, B.F. Harrington, A.E.Risby and J.C.House, and many others. Both shows opened in Norfolk, Va., early in April. All canvas new, and all property will be in best condition and painted. The No.2 show is now enroute through the South, under the management of Pete Sun, with Jack Bledsoe as Advance representative. The show is making good and will return to Norfolk March 30th.

Note from Frank A. Norton, CHS:- "Dr. Gilbert R. Spaulding, of the old time Spaulding & Rogers Circus, introduced the quarter pole to the circus top, the triangular wooden jacks to the seats and the runs to the flat cars of the first circus railroad train. He also had the first 40-horse team hitched 4-abreast and driven by one man."

NOTES ABOUT CURRENT SHOWS (1944) AS REPORTED BY
VARIOUS C.H.S. MEMBERS

John J. Crowley CHS sent in the following regarding Hunt Bros. Circus as seen June 29th, 1944:

"Performance is given in two rings under an 80' round top with one 30 and one 40' middle piece. On the grand stand side of the track is a very small stage set up between the rings, which is also used during the performance. Side show contains the menagerie and is a 30 by 50' tent. A 20 by 35' tent is used as a dining tent. Show moves on 19 show-owned trucks and semi-trailers and 34 private cars, trucks and house trailers. In all 53 vehicles are paid for in moving over toll bridges and ferries.

"The menagerie consists of three bulls, 2 llamas, 1 zebra, and a cage truck containing an ape, a lioness and six monkeys. Show also carries 11 ponies, 6 horses, 2 mules and 9 dogs.

Mike Piccolo CHS writes of WALLACE BROS. CIRCUS as seen on May 10th at Uniontown, Penna., "Big top is 140' with three 50's and the menagerie is a 90' round with 3 - 30's; the side show is an 80' with 2 - 30's; the pad room is a 40' with two 30's, and the Marquee is 40'.

The big top seats 4,300. Show got 8th and 9th grade boys from a Junior High School to help in setting up.

John J. Crowley also sent a report on the Wallace Circus as seen in Framingham, Mass., on July 4th. The Menagerie at that time consisted of: 5 bulls; 2 camels; 10 high school and liberty horses; 1 resin back horse; 4 ponies; 1 donkey; 1 mule. All these owned by Wallace Bros.; 3 Red Lunceford's horses used in Wild West Concert; 1 Coy Lee's Wild West Horse; 3 Romig-Rooney Rosinback Horses; 2 Romig-Rooney's High School Horses; 2 mules belonging to same troupe; together with their 6 trained dogs. Capt. Engerer's 5 lions and 2 dogs.

"The show moves on 86 vehicles, including privately owned cars, trucks and trailers.

Bette Leonard CHS reports on Al.G.Kelly and Miller Bros. Circus, as seen at Wichita, Kansas, June 14th:

"Big Top a 70' with 3 - 30's. Show has 12 trucks, and eight house cars. Show has 3 elephants, 6 monkeys, 1 Llama, 1 Lion Slaying Baboon, 1 Gnu, 10 ponies, 20 head of horses, 2 camels, lion, bear, Barbary goat and Puma.

Show features a white color scheme with red lettering and looks good.

Ray Friesel CHS reports having seen the Tom Pack's Thrill Circus in Forbes Field Stadium in Pittsburgh, Pa., week of July 24th to 29th. Special recognition must be given to Terrell Jacobs for doing his dangerous act on Friday night in the midst of a heavy rain. The same goes for Pee Jay Ringen, the Valentines and Valentinos, the Sky-High Girl and Selden. Under ordinary conditions these acts are all hazardous, but during and after a heavy rain danger is multiplied.

We wish to thank all the above members and others who sent in these reports on the various shows. The above accounts are brief and each sender has listed personell and program, but space will not permit us to give each report in full.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Reminder to those who have not sent in their annual dues -----
While the response to our request for dues had been quite favorable, there are still a few who have overlooked this. Please send in your Two Dollars to the Treasurer, Walter J. Pietschmann, 7337 Third St., Detroit, 2, Mich., U.S.A.

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY'S MAILBAG

Most ardent CHS circus goer of whom we have heard, is John J. Crowley, of Cambridge, Mass., who has visited the following circuses this season:

Ringling-Barnum - 3 times
 Wallace Bros. - 5 times on five consecutive days.
 Hunt Bros. - 15 times (Crowley thinks this must be a near-record for seeing one circus in one season.)

Crowley's activities also included the following:-

May 12th - accompanied R-B billposter, who was billing Cambridge, Mass., for the Boston stand.
 July 4th - accompanied Walter Rogers and Tom Buchanan, who were doing legal adjusting for Wallace Bros., at Framingham, Mass.
 June 29th - helped clean horses and ponies on the Hunt Show at Natick, Mass.
 July 16th - helped spread big top canvas, setting top and seats on Hunt Circus.
 July 14th - accompanied Chas. Hunt Sr., on a trip over proposed route for the next two weeks in Greater Boston area.
 July 15th - took reserve seat tickets on Hunt Circus at Saugus, Mass.
 July 18th - helped out on concession stand on Hunt Circus at Wakefield, Mass.

Editors would like to know if any member can beat this record?

Sgt. Clarence Pfeffer, 33255603, Section D, Clovis Army Air Field, Clovis, New Mexico, writes, saying that he still keeps up his interest in the circus, and says he is glad to hear from all CHS members who may write to him at the above address.

CHS John Wyatt, one of our newer members, writes that his father was a tight rope walker and slack wire performer and tumbler. John spends each vacation as a clown with Cole Bros. Circus.

Another new member, Wallace G. Winter, has a hobby which differs a little from the usual collector of circusiana. He specializes in collecting autographed photos of performers and circus owners. Mr. Winter is Lot Superintendent and Founder of Ernestine Clarke Tent, CFA, and is also a National Director of CFA.

CHS Burns M. Kattenberg, whose specialty is collecting data on contortionists, is writing a book on this fascinating subject entitled "All About Contortionists". When completed this will be another item for all collectors of circusiana.

CHS F.M. Farrell visited Bailey Bros. Circus in Ithaca, N.Y., on June 19th and also in Geneva, N.Y., on June 26th.

CHS Bill Woodcock is now with Cole Bros. Circus, and no doubt will be glad to meet any CHS members en route.

John Van Matre, CHS, has been elected Friver of Division 3 - "THE FIVE GRACE" Bandwagon, and from all reports this Division is going to make a name for itself. The enclosed "FIVE GRACE NOTES" - the first issue of the Division Monthly, has been sent along by the Driver for distribution to CHS Members. This paper will be published for Division 3 members. John's idea in sending this first issue is to give other prospective Divisions a suggestion to work on.

Just as we go to press - the Summer number of Bill Green's "THE CALL OF THE CALLIOPE" has just come to hand. Bill is to be complimented on his continued efforts to publish an interesting "all-ad" paper. We wish also at this time to pay tribute to Bill for his regular CHS ad that appears in his paper - and to acknowledge the fact that we receive many inquiries from future CHS members through Bill's kindness.

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PINK LEMONADE, M. F. Coplan, 1945. Large Collection of about 125 excellent circus pictures with commentary by Beverly Kelley. NEW	3.50
ROLLING STONE, Fred Stone, 1945. 246 pp. 18 illus. (photos). Stone's autobiography including his early circus days. NEW	3.00
BLACK MOON, Clark McMeekin, 1945. 238pp. A novel of circus life in the 1830's. NEW	2.75
CIRCUS DAY, Claude Allen Lewis & Mabel Cobb, 1945. Large. About 50 illus. including 4 in color. Juvenile. NEW	1.50
TWELVE YEARS OF TROUPING. Gainesville Community Circus 1930-41, A. Morton Smith, 1944. Small. 112pp. 19 illus. NEW	2.50
THEY ALL HAD GLAMOUR, Edward B. Marks, 1944. 448pp. About 70 plates. Primarily on the theatre, but contains much of circus interest. (Barnum, G.L.Fox, Blondin, Adah Menken, Arthur Nelson, Whimsical Walker, others). NEW	4.00
ESME OF PARIS, Esme Davis, 1944. 444pp. Illustrated. An autobiography. Considerable on the circus. NEW.	4.00
CLYDE BEATTY & RUSSELL BROS. COMBINED CIRCUS. Souvenir Program & Season Route, 1944.	1.00
THE GENTLEMAN GIANT. Biography of Robert Pershing Wadlow, Frederic Fadner, 1944. 206pp. 16 illus. (photos). NEW.	2.00
THE CIRCUS COMES TO SCHOOL. A Plan Whereby the Circus Becomes Educational & Recreational, Averil Tibbels, 1937. 242pp. 29 illus. NEW.	2.50
RANDOM NOTES ON THE HISTORY OF THE EARLY AMERICAN CIRCUS, R.W.G. Vail, 1934. 75pp. 7 plates. NEW	2.00
THE CIRCUS IN LITERATURE, Leonidas Westervelt, 1931. 88pp. Frontis. Ltd. edn. (300 numbered copies). NEW	2.00
THE GANGS OF NEW YORK, Herbert Asbury, 1937. 400pp. 53 illus. Has an account of the burning of Barnum's Museum. NEW	2.50
HORSES & PONIES OF BRITAIN, Lady Wentworth, 1944. 48pp. 8 color plates (from old prints). 26 other illus. Has a section, with 1 illus., on circus horses. NEW	1.25
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"THE BANDWAGON" HONORS JAMES A. BAILEY

Special Edition, April-May, 1947

Published by Don F. Smith, Farmington, Michigan

James A. Bailey was born in the city of Detroit on Independence Day, July 4, 1847, of Scotch-Irish parents, the father dying when Jim was but two, and his mother, when he was seven years of age. After the latter sad event, his elder brothers went out into the world to earn a living for themselves, and the Courts appointed his sister's husband as his guardian. Here he remained until 12 years of age, having been little to school, and learning during that period only what a keen observation and a natural relish for knowledge could afford him. His spirit was too proud to endure strict confinement and severe discipline under a severe guardian, and he left his home when 12 years old. He walked out on the road 5 miles and met some farmers who had been in town disposing of loads of wheat, and asked them for permission to ride. One of them, Tom Eagle, who still resided during 1881, between the small villages of Walled Lake and Commerce, employed him at \$3.00 per month, to labor in summer, and in the winter months he was to do chores for his board. He remained there nearly all of one year, and the following spring insisted upon an increase of wages to \$4.00 per month, was refused, and packing his worldly effects in a flaming red bandana handkerchief, he departed on foot for Pontiac, Michigan. The day of his arrival was the occasion for a great political gathering in 1860, the year that Lincoln was elected President, and the whole country for miles around was assembled in town. He happened into the Hodges House livery stable, and being spry and used to horses, and knowing how to harness and unharness them, he rendered valuable aid to the hostlers, who were hard driven with work. The hotel was kept by a widow lady, Mrs. Hodges, whose sons took special notice of the boy Bailey, and employed him to build and keep up fires and carry water for the laundry of the house. In two weeks time he was promoted to bell-boy at \$6.00 per month. He immediately became a great favorite of the landlady, who, when she would go to her farm at Birmingham a few miles away, always requested him to drive her buggy for her. She was a kind gentle lady, and gave young Bailey much good advice from which he profited a great deal, and he always spoke of Mrs. Hodges with great affection.

During the summer, the agents of Robinson and Lake's Circus came along and stopped at the hotel. They induced Bailey to assist them, and to make paste and distribute handbills, for which they promised free admission to the show which was to follow in a few weeks. During the day, while performing the labors allotted to him, he told the showmen the story of his life, and his brightness and intelligence was doubtless the incentive which caused them to propose that he join them. To his leaving, Mrs. Hodges objected strenuously, but it was of no avail. She made the agents faithfully promise that in case of illness or accident, they would return him to her, and assured him that her house could always be considered his home. For three years, he worked for this travelling organization in the advance, for board and clothing, but in 1863 he was employed as billposter at \$12 per month by John Robinson and his brother Alex. In the fall, he came into Cincinnati with \$60 cash, and immediately expended \$45 of it for clothes. That winter he acted in the capacity of groom, for his board and washing. In 1864 he went out as Asst. Agent and head bill-poster of Lake's Circus at \$25 per month, most of the business devolving upon him. The next winter, after a very satisfactory season, he went to Nashville, and tended door for a Museum, and after a while he entered the service of Duffield and Flynn's Theaters as Chief advertising agent, and ushering at night. One night when Lawrence Barrett was playing Elliott Grey in "Rosedale," a gentleman came in and the theater being crowded, failed to secure a seat. He went to Bailey and offered him \$5.00 to procure him one, which could have been done by an act of dishonesty. The bribe was firmly but politely refused. The next day Mr. A. H. Green, formerly cashier of a Bank, called on Bailey and offered him a position as sutler in the Army at \$60 per month. He was the same gentleman whose bribe Bailey had refused at the Theatre the evening previous. The proposition was accepted, and Mr. Bailey proceeded at once to the front, in General Sherman's Army. He was present at the battles of Missionary Ridge, Ringgold, Tunnel Hill, Buzzards Roost, Resaca, Altoona, Jonesville, Kenesaw Mountain and Marietta, as sutler for 113th Ohio, Second Brigade, 2nd Division of the 14th Army Corps, General Jeff C. Davis commanding. He frequently went out on the skirmish line to deliver mail and articles of food for officers and the soldiers, and related many stirring tales of narrow escapes. From Atlanta he was ordered back to the rear where he acted as sutler for seven batteries.

He remained there until the winter of 1865, his pay in the meantime having been augmented to \$200 per month, when, after Mr. Green had proffered him a partnership, he quitted the service and returned to Show business at less salary. He re-engaged to Lake's Circus for the season of '66, and that fall, with the show closing in Columbus, Ohio, he assisted Mr. Lake to break horses and train apprentices to perform before the public. The following year he was again ahead of the show, the latter part of the season assuming the whole responsibility of routing the show, and directing the Advance advertising.

Late in the Autumn another agent was sent to the front under whose orders, if he remained, he (Bailey) would be compelled to act, and he went back to the show for settlement. Mr. Lake refused to let Bailey quit his service and made him business manager. In March, 1868, he was again returned to the front at a salary of \$100 per month, which in June was voluntarily increased by Mr. Lake to \$200. Lake was foully murdered at the hands of an assassin at Granby, Mo. on August 21, 1869 and Mr. Bailey remained with the show until its close at Pine Bluff, Arkansas, after having made a continuous season of 37 months, the longest on record. The show was shipped to Memphis in December and there disposed of by the widow. When paid off, Mr. Bailey had in cash \$1,400, the most money he had ever possessed at one time, up to that date. The next spring he bought the Concert with Henning's, Cooper and Whitby's Circus and Trained Animals. He had full charge of Concert with the understanding that he was to go occasionally in Advance when required. He cleared \$6,000 that year. In 1871 he accepted a position with the same firm at \$75 per week, and assumed entire control of the Advance. The next year he bought the entire privileges with George Middleton and made money. In 1873, Mr. Cooper, in order to longer retain his services, was forced to give Bailey a partnership, and the show was named the Great International Allied Shows. He was a partner ever after until 1881. In 1876 the above show was placed upon rails, taken to California, and from there, made its famous journey around the world. In the meantime the establishment had grown to most formidable proportions, and was the largest show ever taken on ship board, up to that time. The trip was in every way satisfactory, and the animals and company safely landed in New York in December, 1878. Mr. Bailey at once, in company with James E. Cooper, bought the Great London Circus, and consolidated it with their own. The two seasons made with these great shows under the same canvas were the most successful ever known, having cleared nearly \$500,000. In 1880, James Cooper retired and James L. Hutchinson bought his interest. P. T. Barnum had long watched Bailey with eagle eye, and after much consultation, induced him to form a monster combination of his own and Mr. Bailey's shows for 1881.

This consolidation of the "P. T. Barnum's Greatest Show on Earth" and the "Great London Circus" owned by Bailey and Hutchinson, came about because of the birth of a baby elephant on the London Show in 1880. The great Barnum at once saw the immense publicity value of the feature attraction owned by his competitor, and offered to buy or borrow the baby for the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars. Bailey, of course, refused and thereafter he reproduced the Barnum telegram with telling effect in every city shown. Barnum was finally forced to accept James A. Bailey and James Hutchinson into his equal partnership in order to regain some of the great publicity for himself. Hutchinson was not interested so much in fame as in fortune, and soon retired permanently from show business, and Bailey followed him into retirement for a few years, when he could not get along with Barnum. However the Circus was in his blood and he rejoined Barnum at the start of the so-called "White-Elephant War" with the Adam Forepaugh show, which lasted until 1887, when the Barnum and Bailey and Forepaugh Shows were combined for spring showing at Madison Square Garden, with sixty elephants performing at one time. It is doubtful if so many bulls have ever appeared on any show since, altho Ringling-Barnum and Bailey have claimed nearly 50 during recent seasons. During the winter of 1889-90 Bailey took the Greatest Show on Earth to the Olympia in London, where he presented a Spec in which over 1,600 persons took part. This was "Nero, or the Destruction of Rome," and was directed by Imre Kiralfy, the famous ballet master of that time. Barnum died the following year, leaving James A. Bailey the sole proprietor of their show, in addition to the Forepaugh Circus.

In 1895, Nate Salsbury, partner of Buffalo Bill, became ill, and contracted Bailey to direct the Advance of the great Wild West show and Congress of Rough Riders of the World. Bailey took active charge of the W. W. management and appointed Wm. H. Gardner of the Barnum and Bailey Circus, as general agent. In another year Bailey had arranged to send his great Circus to Europe for the famous Five Year Tour, leaving his Forepaugh-Sells combination to garner the American trade. Nearly seventy special railroad cars were built to carry the show through European countries, being more narrow than their American cars, and fifty-five feet in length. The show train experienced several wrecks on the continent, most notable being one in Germany, when several stock cars were demolished and many fine ring horses were killed.

However the foreign tour was a complete success in every way and James Bailey had definitely won for himself the title of Greatest Showman of All Time. He was bitten on the nose by a small insect while inspecting Madison Square Garden, in the spring of 1906, and on April 11 he passed away at his home in Mount Vernon, New York, while the band played for opening of another season of The Greatest Show On Earth.

It should be mentioned in closing that Bailey's family name was James Anthony McGinnis, and he was born in a small cottage near Sixth and Pine Streets in the old Corktown section of Detroit. (Don Smith, Founder of the Circus Historical Society, and writer of this article lived in the same block of houses shortly after Bailey's death.) The Circus Agent who first signed up young Jim in Pontiac was Fred Bailey, a relative of old Hakaliah Bailey, identified with the first circus elephant in America. In Jackson, Michigan, Fred became ill while billing for the Robinson and Lake Circus, and Jim McGinnis filled his job so well that he was later legally adopted by the grateful Bailey, hence his later name.

In commemoration of the One Hundredth Anniversary of James A. Bailey's birth in Detroit, the Main Branch of Detroit Public Library has permitted use of all its Museum Display cases - 15 in number - for a huge Exhibit of Circusiana. This exhibit will run from mid-June until after August first, and will be open to the public. About 80 per cent of the total display is from the collection of Don Smith, founder of the Circus Historical Society, and includes old Programs, Heralds, Couriers, Letterheads, Route sheets, etc., dating back to the 1870 period, when Bailey was hitting his stride as a Showman. There are also a dozen One Inch Scale Models of old-time Circus Parade wagons from shows at the turn of the Century, which have gained many compliments for the Don Smith Collection. In the cases and on a huge display board on the mezzanine are over 100 Circus photos taken by CHS member Walter Pietschman. These are 11x14 inches in size and many have been shown in leading Photographic Salons during past several years. A duplicate display will be shown to CHS members attending the Second National Convention, held at Jamestown, New York, in early July. Approximately 50 8x10 photos from the Don Smith Collection; Art work and Lithos from George DeDeppo; CFA; and Books on the Circus, which are available at the Library, complete the showing.

INVENTORY OF ROLLING STOCK -- SPARKS RAILROAD CIRCUS -- 1947 SEASON

These wagons and numbers were checked by Dick Conover and Don Smith at Columbus, Ohio, shortly before the start of Canadian tour. CHS members Don Howland and Ed F. Hillhouse were also present and a fine visit was had by all, despite cold rain which fell most of the afternoon.

Pole Wagon	#132	Canvas Wagon	#22	All wagons are painted Red, with name in Yellow letters, edged or shaded in Blue. Undergears are silver, and all have pneumatic tires. The cages are extremely small and cheaply built for such a show, and have tiny wheels. These are done in Aluminum with small Blue stripe. No numbers.
Stringer	128	Concessions	26	
Props	64	Cookhouse	44,32	
Dogs	22	Wardrobe	38,54	
Starbacks	14	Bandstand	-----	
Jacks	36	2 Tractors, 238,	248	
Stake & Chain	34	1 Jeep		
Chairs	120	1 Scoopmobile		
Stake Driver	12	1 Case Tractor	218	
Side Show	20	6 Flat Cars		
Light Plant	16	3 Sleepers		
Blue Planks	24	1 Stock Car		
Red Wagon	18	6 Small Cages		

This issue of THE BANDWAGON is an emergency edition, edited and published by Don Smith at request of President Bette Leonard, following failure of two elected publishers to get out an issue. Mrs. Leonard has requested that this be dated APRIL-MAY to partly compensate for the issues missed during above months. Much confusion resulted from lack of information concerning April and May issues, and it is hoped that everything may be ironed out during the Convention, with appointment of an established printer to care for our publication in future.

Plan now to attend the big Third Annual CHS Round-up in Peru, Indiana this fall. This is the largest gathering of circus fans, Historians & Model Builders in the entire Midwest, and is a date looked forward to, by all who have attended the previous meetings. Further information from Don Smith at a later date.

The James A. Bailey story in this issue is a preview of material being gathered by Don Smith for inclusion in his coming book, which will include other Circus Facts and Photos not generally known or previously published.

APRIL MAY
BAUDWAGON
1947